PRIME MINISTER DECLARES A PR WAR, PG 6

Celebrity Buzz
LiLo still sweet on Sam
pg 18

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Shots may have been warning: Cops

INCIDENT A shooting in Fairview last night may have been a message to the victims, says Const. Jeff Carr, spokesman for the Halifax Regional Police.

The two men, aged 28 and 40, were sitting in a car parked in the parking lot at 38 Vimy Ave. last night when another vehicle approached and the occupants fired two or three shots before driving away. Neither man was injured.

One victim left the scene and refuses to co-operate with police. The other will only provide limited information. It's unclear if the shots were aimed at just one of the men or both.

Carr says it's difficult to say if Monday's shooting was related to the recent shootings outside the IWK or the shooting of a 20-year-old Halifax man Saturday.

"Certainly, it would be a stretch to say they were someway linked. We're not sure." METRO HALIFAX

Surgeries under knife

Capital Health cost-cutting measure sees schedule slashed for savings

PAUL MCLEOD
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Capital Health will cut 1,000 surgeries from its schedule as one of many measures to make up a $7-million deficit.

Reducing overtime, reusing medical equipment and fewer snacks on food trays are among other cost cutting steps being taken.

The overall plan is to cut the $7 million by the end of the fiscal year with minimal impact to patient care.

The single biggest saving — $1.35-million — will come by cutting surgeries in half over three weeks.

Usually, there's one such slow-down week in March.

Now there will be two and two more in February, dropping a total of 1,000 surgeries.

Emergency surgeries will still be provided.

RYAN TAPLIN/FOR METRO HALIFAX

Patient attendant Michael Butler wheels a woman to a procedure at the Halifax Infirmary yesterday. Capital Health needs to cut costs in order to make up a $7-million deficit.

"Over the past two years, we have increased the number of surgeries here in Capital District. So, it will set us back, but we're still doing 2,000 surgeries more than two years ago," said chief of surgeries Dr. Jaap Bonjer.

Bonjer said the delay for individual patients wouldn't be greatly affected.

There are more than 30 cost cutting measures and some — such as shutting down the Dartmouth General emergency room overnight — are being considered if more cuts are necessary.

Privatization of services is not currently being considered.

NSGEU President Joan Jessome said the slowdown in surgeries could have positive side effects because it will give healthcare workers more personal time.

Capital Health loses almost $3 million each month between staff taking sick days or stress leave and others taking overtime to cover their shifts.

ShareYourViews
halifaxletters@metronews.ca

Sports pg 10
SMU intends to make bid for Vanier Cup

Travel pg 14

Rock out in New York

Eyes of the nation on the Governor General

CRISIS Having spent the past week in a flurry of handshakes and speeches, she is coming home to hole herself up with books and advisers to grapple with a crisis that places the fate of the government in her hands.

"It must be lonely in a way," constitutional scholar Paul Thomas of the University of Manitoba said of the enormous task facing Gov. Gen. Michaëlle Jean as she returns to Ottawa today after cutting short her four-country European tour.

"I'm sure she has trusted confidants in her office, but at the end of the day, she has to sit down and ask herself what's the right thing to do in the national interest."

Her country will be watching — and judging — her answer to that question, and even history may never make up its mind whether she got it right.

It appears increasingly likely Jean will face a request from Prime Minister Stephen Harper to prorogue, or shut down, the current parliamentary session before opposition parties get the chance to kick him out next week in the hopes of taking power with a coalition government.

She has the power to refuse him — a power constitutional scholars and a former governor general say must be exercised with extreme caution, but nonetheless remains important as she fulfils her duties to maintain stability.

Before Jean makes up her mind she will consult with a number of discreet advisers — both an in-house legal team and academics and lawyers and others from a variety of fields and political leanings — who will help the former broadcast journalist wade through a Constitution that is often ambiguous or even silent on the most complicated issues.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Decision Maker

- Michaëlle Jean became Canada's 27th Governor General in September 2005. Jean was born in Port au Prince, Haiti. She immigrated to Canada with her family in 1968, fleeing the dictatorial regime of the time. She is fluent in five languages: French, English, Italian, Spanish and Creole.
- An award-winning journalist, Jean worked for eight years with Quebec shelters for battered women, while actively aiding in the establishment of a network of emergency shelters throughout Quebec and elsewhere in Canada.

Canadian reaction to Ottawa drama ranges from glee to outrage at metronews.ca/canada

Atlantic Free Daily Newspapers Inc., operating as Metro Halifax 3260 Barrington Street, Suite 102, Halifax, Nova Scotia B3K 0B5. Publisher: Greg Lutes

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Province invests $2.5 million into tourism marketing
The province is investing $2.5 million into niche marketing in the tourism industry. Bill Dooks, minister of Tourism, Culture and Heritage, made the announcement at a tourism conference in Halifax yesterday morning. METRO HALIFAX

Local

Public workers make 23.1% more: Report

When including benefits and wages, federal government employees are generally paid 41.7 per cent more than their private counterparts. A report by the Canadian Federation of Independent Business states government employees in Nova Scotia earn 23.1 per cent more than private workers. METRO HALIFAX

Coalition cabinet posts up in air

MP Megan Leslie says opposition party leaders have yet to talk on individual posts

DEVIN STEVENS
for Metro Halifax

Canada may have a new coalition government next week, and that has people wondering how many Atlantic Canadians will be in a new cabinet.

Halifax's rookie MP Megan Leslie has been a bit overwhelmed with it all — she doesn't even have pens in her new office. She says a cabinet appointment isn't on her radar.

"This agreement has not once talked about individual people," she said. "It has not been about personalities, it's been about the issues for stimulating the economy."

But that doesn't stop the speculation. There are three Atlantic Canadian cabinet ministers right now, one from each province except Newfoundland and Labrador, where the Tories were shut out last election.

> **"(Coalition talk) has not been about personalities, it's been about the issues for stimulating the economy."**
> Halifax MP Megan Leslie

If the Liberals and NDP form a coalition, 18 cabinet posts will go to Liberals, with the remaining six going to the NDP.

Nova Scotia's Scott Brison was minister of Public Works and Government Services in Paul Martin's government, and challenged for the Liberal leadership two years ago.

Halifax West MP Geoff Regan also served in cabinet, holding the Fisheries and Oceans portfolio for three years. New Brunswick MP Dominic LeBlanc is challenging for the Liberal leadership and may get consideration for a cabinet post.

The current Liberal leader, Stéphane Dion, hasn't committed to appointing the three leadership candidates.

There will likely be a portfolio for Newfoundland and Labrador MP as well. The province is currently represented by Nova Scotia's Peter MacKay.

Jennifer Smith, a political scientist at Dalhousie University says don't count out a Nova Scotia MP taking one of the NDP seats.

"Nova Scotians have been reliable NDP voters in federal elections since the breakthrough under Alexa McDonough," Smith said.

If united, can the opposition stand?

DEVIN STEVENS
for Metro Halifax

POLITICS So the Liberals and the NDP turf the Tories, seize power, and enter into a coalition government with the Bloc Québécois. What are the chances they'll keep it all together?

Political scientist Jennifer Smith says there are all kinds of questions. Who will lead the Liberals? How long will the Bloc Québécois stay on board? Can the NDP and the Liberals work together?

"Right now, they can all get on board, they don't like Minister (Jim) Flaherty's economic statement," Smith said. "The minute they assume office, they're going to be inundated by a series of incredibly difficult issues and decisions that will have to be made. They don't even know now what they're going to be."

Smith said Canada has never had a true coalition government. In other countries, there is usually one dominant party leading the coalition, and another party with far fewer seats.

This collation will have the Liberals' 77 seats — one of the lowest totals in party history — and the NDP's 37 seats, one of its best.

Meanwhile, the Bloc has 49 seats, meaning no party has clear-cut power.

Plus, Smith wonders if Stephane Dion will hand over the reigns if he becomes popular.

"What if two months into it Canadians think he walks on water? He shows skills we never knew he had?" she said.

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What's online today.
Video The life, legacy and accomplishments of Ted Rogers at **metronews.ca/canada**
Video Canadians react to Ottawa drama with both glee and outrage at **metronews.ca/canada**

Metro Centre **A Blunt performance**

ERIN MACDONALD/FOR METRO HALIFAX

British singer-songwriter James Blunt performs at the Halifax Metro Centre last night.

Federal minister 'aware' of lobster-industry woes: Chisholm

FISHERIES In the wake of protests by Nova Scotia lobster fishermen, Nova Scotia's fisheries minister met with his federal counterpart Monday to discuss the problem.

Ron Chisholm recommended licensing regulation changes to federal minister Gail Shea.

"Ms. Shea is aware of the serious issues facing the lobster industry in southwest Nova Scotia," Chisholm said.

The meeting comes after most fishermen refused to take their boats out. One group also blocked two lobster shipments trying to board the Digby ferry. They say they can't make money being paid only $3 a pound.

Nova Scotia's lobster industry is worth about $400 million a year.

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IWK gift-donation deadline creeping closer

If you're planning to drop off a gift for a kid at the IWK Health Centre (an unwrapped toy or donation), staff are asking you to get them in by Dec. 18. The donations are "essential" in making the holiday time special for patients and their families. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Cop accused of theft still getting paid

Problems with security tapes have postponed Rideout trial until January

PAUL MCLEOD
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A Halifax cop accused of multiple cases of theft will continue to be paid until at least January, thanks to technical difficulties.

Police first started investigating Const. Todd Rideout, who's been with the force two years, after a Lower Sackville store claimed he robbed them in July.

A search of Rideout's home allegedly found stolen property. He was suspended with pay, and now his court case has been delayed due to a problem with security tapes.

Rideout claimed he bought the items from the Lower Sackville Kent store. Kent allegedly has a security tape of the day showing he never went through the checkout. Police have offered to show the tape to the prosecution, but the only system that can play the video is at the store.

Defence attorney David Bright has argued that isn't good enough, and the police need to find a way to make him a copy. He said his client can't enter a plea until that happens.

The case has been put off until Jan. 15. Rideout faces three counts of theft under $5,000, two counts of possession of stolen property and one count of unsafe storage of a firearm.

ShareYourViews
halifaxletters@metronews.ca

Euthanized deer left for three days on private property by police

NEW GLASGOW A local woman is angry that police euthanized a deer and dragged it onto her property early Saturday morning, where it stayed until midday Monday.

Sharon MacLean was awakened shortly after 4 a.m. Saturday when her daughter told her a young deer had been hit by a car near their Marsh Street home. A few minutes later, she jumped as she heard New Glasgow police officers fire a shot.

"I guess they were trying to put it out of its misery," she said.

But MacLean is furious that the animal was dragged onto her property into some trees and left there for three days.

"It's unsanitary, just to begin with," said MacLean. "I have animals — if that poor baby deer had some kind of disease, they could bring it in to my kids."

New Glasgow Police Chief Delaney Chisholm said officers went to the scene after the driver of the vehicle contacted them. An officer shot the deer on the advice of the Department of Natural Resources.

"The deer had a broken leg, and DNR requested, because of the injury, that our officers put the deer down humanely," he said.

> **"I have animals — if that poor baby deer had some kind of disease, they could bring it in to my kids."**
> Sharon MacLean

Police believed that the body would be picked up the next morning, and Chisholm wasn't aware that the deer body hadn't been removed — it was picked up around midday.

"If they had made contact with us, we would have worked to expedite the situation," he said.

According to Allan Blinn, the area manager with the local DNR office, that's no longer standard operating procedure.

"Our policy, as far as dead animals goes, is that it stays where it is until normal business hours," Blinn said. "If it's lying in the middle of the road and creating a hazard, it's then up to the Department of Transportation to remove it." **THE NEW GLASGOW NEWS**

Woman attacked with frying pan in home break-in

BREAK-AND-ENTER A 47-year-old woman was seriously injured when she was attacked with a frying pan on Monday night.

The two suspects, a 42-year-old man and a 29-year-old woman who were known to the victim, broke into her Dutch Village Road apartment through an unlocked door.

They have been charged with breaking and entering, assault with a weapon and aggravated assault. were set to appear in court Tuesday morning. **METRO HALIFAX**

18-year-old brought down from overpass by cops, RCMP

AMHERST A young male was escorted to hospital by police after a tense 45 minutes of standing on the edge of a Trans-Canada Highway overpass on Monday.

Smoking one cigarette after another, the unidentified 19-year-old stood on the overpass's outside edge with Highway 2 below. As many motorists looked on, the man would periodically remove an electronic device from his pocket, operate it for a minute, before putting it back.

"We got the call around 10:08 a.m. from someone concerned about the safety of an individual in town," said Amherst Police Staff Sgt. Scott White.

For nearly an hour, officers from the Amherst Police Department stayed onscene, with two of the officers communicating with the man.

Once the RCMP arrived, the two departments planned how to remove him from the overpass without injury.

The man will likely not be charged, but will probably undergo a psychiatric assessment, the RCMP said. **AMHERST DAILY NEWS**

News in brief

CRASH Two people with serious injuries were taken to the hospital after a four-car crash in Dartmouth yesterday.
At about 3:30 p.m., the vehicles collided at the corner of Main Street and Ridgecrest. Two people fled the accident scene but were soon picked up by police. Police said yesterday afternoon they're still investigating to determined how the crash occurred.

MUGGING A 17-year-old man was robbed at knife point while jogging on Oldham Road on Monday night. At around 5 p.m,. he was approached by a man who hit him over the head and took his wallet. The suspect is said to be around six feet tall and 200 pounds, with dark hair and a beard. He was wearing an orange hat and an old jacket.

WITNESSES Cape Breton Traffic Services in North Sydney is looking for people who may have witnessed a crash on Nov. 28. A small grey vehicle pulled an illegal U-turn into the CBRM Water Facility. This caused another vehicle to drive off the highway and become heavily damaged. Any witnesses can call Cape Breton Traffic Services at (902) 794-5800. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

NSP fined in worker's death

SYDNEY Acknowledging no sentence would heal the hearts of Alfred Joseph Wrice's family, a provincial court judge imposed a sentence on Nova Scotia Power Inc. far short of what the Crown sought the incident leading to the death of the 35-year-old Glace Bay man.

Judge Anne Derrick sentenced the private utility to a total penalty of $43,750 — a $25,000 fine, $15,000 to fund three fall-prevention sessions by the Construction Safety Association, and a $3,750 victim surcharge.

The Crown had sought a penalty in the range of $80,000 to $100,000, including a fine and public education component. The defence wanted a total penalty of $25,000.

The matter went to trial for three days in June. When it resumed in October, Nova Scotia Power changed its plea to guilty on a charge of failing to ensure that a means of fall protection or equivalent level of safety was provided at the workplace.

Wrice was employed as a coal-handler at the Lingan generating station, controlling tripper units that deliver coal to the bunkers through 14-inch slot openings. He was working alone — as was NSPI's practice — on Dec. 4, 2004, and was noticed missing shortly after 1 p.m. when his hard hat was discovered on the floor. Just before 10 p.m., his body was recovered in a coal bunker.

Wrice's family said nothing after court was adjourned, but could be seen shaking their heads repeatedly as Derrick read her decision. **THE CAPE BRETON POST**

Repairs

- Since Wrice's death, the company has subsequently installed grates over the floor slots.

Sentencing delayed in alleged assault

COURT One of the teens accused of violently beating a 14-year-old girl and locking her in a freezer will have to wait another day to be sentenced.

The man, 17 at the time of the alleged attack, had not read his pre-sentence report when he showed up at Halifax provincial court Tuesday.

The sentencing has been delayed until Dec. 16.

In June, a group of teens allegedly dragged the girl by her hair, kicked and punch her, beat her with a mop handle, burnt her with cigarettes, threw her down the stairs, and locked her inside a freezer. **METRO HALIFAX**

Teens to create youth Heart and Stroke walking program
Eight teens from across the province — including four from HRM — were picked to help the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Nova Scotia develop a youth walking program. They were chosen from a contest where only eight submissions were received. METRO HALIFAX

A family's hope and despair

Maher Arar's wife, Monia Mazigh, recounts her experience

STEPHEN CLARE
for Metro Halifax

Monia Mazigh insists that while she may have forgiven, she has not forgotten.

"I would not say that we are bitter," she says about the wrongful 2002 deportation — and subsequent torture — of her husband Maher Arar.

"Sure, it might have been easier for us as a family to just disappear from sight after everything was done. However, we have chosen instead to use the experience to better educate the public and give back in whatever way we can."

Mazigh, who spoke last night to a large audience at Saint Mary's University, met with the Halifax media yesterday to promote her book about the injustice, Hope and Despair: My Struggle to Free My Husband, Maher Arar.

And while the work does well to recount the logistics and chronology of her husband's ordeal, Mazigh says she didn't write the book for that reason.

"Many people across the country, and around the world, know my husband's story. What they haven't heard is how it affected us as a family and how my two children and I coped with the situation."

> **"What they haven't heard is how it affected us as a family and how my two children and I coped ..."**
> Monia Mazigh

To that end, she adds, writing the book was a form of therapy. "There was very little time or energy for me to process the experience as it was unfolding. This was, perhaps, my way of identifying and working through the many conflicting emotions that I felt during that time and have felt since then."

Mazigh admits that her whirlwind book tour of the region has been rewarding.

"I have been to Halifax twice before, and I have made some good friends here," she says. "Having grown up by the sea in Tunisia, I know the power it has to heal the spirit and refresh the soul. I hope to bring my children and husband here during the summer."

BILL GRIMSHAW/GETTY IMAGES

Monia Mazigh, left, and her husband Maher Arar are shown in Ottawa in this January 2004 file photo.

Pharmacare 'costly patchwork' for Canadians

KAMIA CREELMAN
for Metro Halifax

HEALTH CARE Nova Scotia's "patchwork" drug plan is ripping at the seams.

Jim Cox of Halifax got a job, only to lose his drug plan. His anti-psychotic medications were covered when he was on social assistance, but not when he entered the workforce.

"A lot of people on assistance in Nova Scotia … need their meds to stay well enough to work, but are denied them when they do," Cox testified at a series of public hearings last year about Canadians struggling to pay for medication.

Bill Swan of Halifax forks out $150 to $200 a month for asthma drugs. It's a pre-existing condition, so no insurance.

"I got so angry that I stopped taking the drugs and then I had to be admitted to hospital," Swan told the hearings.

Nova Scotia Citizens' Health Care Network, with the Canadian Health Coalition and other health coalitions across Canada, released a report yesterday about the hearings.

> **"A lot of people on assistance in Nova Scotia ... need their meds to stay well enough to work, but are denied them when they do."**
> Jim Cox

Canada's Pharmacare is "a costly patchwork full of holes that is designed to exclude rather than include people," the report says.

The young, the chronically sick, the old and the poor are falling through these holes, according to the report.

Nova Scotia needs the national, universal drug plan the report advocates, said Ian Johnson of Nova Scotia Citizens' Health Care Network.

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Olympic security going to sea?
RCMP are again looking to use cruise ships to house security officers during the 2010 Vancouver Olympics, even though their first attempt at such a plan fell apart amid a cost dispute. REUTERS

Canada

Williams to stay neutral

Newfoundland and Labrador Premier Danny Williams, left, said yesterday he plans to stay neutral in Ottawa's political battle in which the Liberals and NDP have declared their intention to form a coalition government. Williams said he would work with the prime minister regardless of party, but the opposition coalition has every right to topple and replace the Stephen Harper government. SOURCE: CBC NEWS ONLINE

Media mogul Ted Rogers dead at 75

TORONTO Ted Rogers, who headed a North American broadcasting, publishing and telecoms conglomerate, has died, Rogers Communications said yesterday. He was 75.

Rogers, who was hospitalized in late October for an existing heart condition, died at his home in Toronto.

Ted Rogers

"Though Ted was relentless in business and building this company over the years, he was also very much a family man," said Phil Lind, Rogers' vice-chairman, who worked with the founder for almost 40 years. REUTERS

Video: The life and legacy of Ted Rogers at metronews.ca/canada

Harper declares PR war

Conservative Prime Minister Stephen Harper launched an all-out public relations war on his united opposition yesterday.

Fighting for his political life, Harper has given the nod to pep rallies, an advertising blitz and speeches by ministers to sway public opinion in his favour.

Harper faces almost certain defeat if a vote on an opposition motion of non-confidence goes ahead as scheduled on Monday. The Conservatives are considering a dramatic move to ask Gov. Gen. Michaëlle Jean, who returns to Ottawa today after cutting short a European state visit, to discontinue — "prorogue" — the 40th Parliament as early as tomorrow to avoid the vote.

The Prime Minister led the way yesterday in calling a proposed NDP-Liberal coalition that wants to replace him "undemocratic" and a threat to national unity.

He derided it for handing the balance of power to "separatists" — an accusation his rivals mocked, citing Harper's own government's reliance on the Bloc Québécois to pass two budgets in the past.

Conservatives have been shocked at the speed of events, but, for now, they're rallying behind their leader.

"A national televised address would be a great idea" for Harper to do, said one Conservative MP. "Real and abject humility is an even better idea."

However, none was in evidence from Harper — or his critics — yesterday. In one of the most ferocious question periods since those that followed the 1995 Quebec sovereignty referendum, Liberal Leader Stéphane Dion and Harper savaged each other over which leader could lay claim to a democratic mantle. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

CHRIS WATTIE/REUTERS

Prime Minister Stephen Harper receives a standing ovation from his caucus during question period in the House of Commons on Parliament Hill in Ottawa, yesterday.

Poll
Uncomfortable with Dion

- An Angus Reid poll released yesterday found that 64 per cent of Canadians would not be comfortable with Stéphane Dion becoming prime minister.

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Greens May be in

POLITICS The Green party may have a role to play in a proposed coalition government aimed at replacing the minority Conservatives, Leader Elizabeth May said yesterday.

The opposition Liberals and New Democrats agreed on Monday to form a coalition, while the separatist Bloc Québécois pledged to support them for at least 18 months. The three parties want to unseat Prime Minister Stephen Harper's Conservatives at the first opportunity, accusing the government of mismanaging the economic crisis.

The Green party, which has no elected members in Parliament, fully supports the alliance.

May said she has been in discussions with Liberal Leader Stéphane Dion over what role the party might play in the coalition.

"The Greens have been seeking a way to be in the House of Commons and in Parliament. The Senate is an important part of Parliament," she told reporters at a news conference.

When asked if she would accept an appointment to the unelected Senate, May said: "That's a hypothetical possibility. There are many hypothetical possibilities, including that I wouldn't be in the Senate.

"But we've had discussions, including many aspects of how the Greens could play a role, including the Senate, hypothetically." REUTERS

Public's reaction to coalition varied

GOVERNMENT Canadians reacted with surprise, confusion and sometimes vitriolic anger yesterday over the political chaos that has suddenly gripped the country's normally staid federal government.

Less than two months after a federal election, the nation faced the prospect of the prime minister being ousted in favour of an opposition coalition.

The Liberals, New Democrats and Bloc Québécois say they have lost confidence in the minority government and have asked the governor general to let them form a coalition government, a move unseen in Canadian history.

"Is it legal? Where are we headed as a nation? I have lots of questions about our current political state of affairs," said Bonny Jung, a Toronto-area resident who voted for the Liberals in the Oct. 14 election.

"It's almost like child's play." REUTERS

News in brief

BAILOUT The need to help the auto industry and preserve 400,000 jobs has Premier Dalton McGuinty calling for a resolution to the political crisis in Ottawa. McGuinty has been working closely with Stephen Harper on an aid package for the automakers.

SAFETY Greyhound will tighten security at its main Canadian bus terminals, including screening passengers with hand-held metal detectors, the company said yesterday. The rules come four months after a passenger was beheaded on a bus near Portage La Prairie, Man.

THAILAND Two Canadians were killed and three injured late Monday when their van crashed on the way to catch a flight out of Thailand. Canadian Foreign Minister Lawrence Cannon has said around 1,000 Canadians are affected by upheaval in Thailand. METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Comment & Views

Comment

Blame the boomers

Is it any wonder why our kids turned out this way?

LifeCycle

Denise Rudnicki
drudnicki@gmail.com

If youth is wasted on the young, then maybe love is, too. How else to explain yet another young woman selling her virginity on the web, or the blogs, books and TV shows promoting starter marriages?

I was talking to a young friend about relationships. I wondered how she meets guys.

Do she and her friends go to bars? "Oh no," she said. She and her friends might go to bars to meet a guy for a one-night fling but to find a meaningful relationship, they go online.

And what do they do, I asked, once they've found these meaningful relationships. Do they marry? "Lol," she said. Why would they marry? Why bother?

My generation is to blame for this laissez-faire attitude toward love and commitment.

We raised kids with an attention span of about three minutes, with a pick and choose attitude toward life, who select a career based on how much vacation time it gives them, who think happiness and success are a right, and who blame everyone but themselves when they are unhappy or fail.

We raised them to believe they are the centre of the universe and that no one is better or smarter or more talented than they are.

We let them think they need a $500 prom dress when they graduate Grade 8, that their self-esteem depends on the latest technological gadget and that thong underwear is perfectly acceptable for preteens.

My generation is to blame for this laissez-faire attitude toward love and commitment.

We thought we were protecting them when we taught them about good touch/bad touch, but we let them loose in an Internet world that treats sex like a vicious recreational pastime.

We taught them that it's OK to flee a marriage and bust up a family because one or the other of their parents isn't "happy."

Don't worry, we still love you, and here's a trip to Jamaica to prove it, but gotta go 'cause I've been unhappy for years.

This generation views divorce as an acceptable social trend.

Yet they've also been raised to believe if they're going to marry, they have to do it in the style and with the budget of royalty.

We raised a generation of kids from broken homes, egomaniacs with poor self-esteem, consumers always on the prowl for new and improved products, people who go to clubs for casual sex and who look to Internet sites to find a meaningful relationship that doesn't include marriage.

For this generation, maybe love is a dish best served cold.

Denise Rudnicki is a West Coast-based writer, communications executive and journalism instructor at Royal Roads University.

MICHAEL DE ADDER

Letters

Harper has made a believer out of some in Canada

Why can't we just give the Conservatives a chance to rule the country and see what happens? Why can't we just give Mr. Harper some trust, some time and the respect he deserves as a prime minister elected by the people?

It seems that Mr. Dion is still not accepting his defeat and is trying to save his own face — no matter what it takes, no matter how against the values of the people, his party, and the country. If another election is unavoidable, I believe Mr. Harper will still be our prime minister.

YAN ZHOU, TORONTO, ONT

Put away your partisan ways and put the economy first

It is sickening to watch the eyes of opposition leaders in Ottawa aglow with arrogant greed for power at a time when the country can least afford it.

The prospect of a coalition with Stéphane Dion as prime minister, Jack Layton as finance minister, where the Bloc Québécois, a party dedicated to the breakup of Canada, would hold the hammer is worrisome indeed. Come now you elected officials, your performance of late is like a five-year-old having a temper tantrum. Please shed your diaper-stage performances, drop your partisanship and start tackling the task at hand: A deteriorating economy.

GERTIE POOL, ABBOTSFORD, B.C.

Opposition leaders are embarrassing Canadians

"I am a Canadian, free to speak without fear, free to worship in my own way, free to stand for what I think right, free to oppose what I believe wrong, or free to choose those who shall govern my country. This heritage of freedom I pledge to uphold for myself and all mankind" — John Diefenbaker, from the Canadian Bill of Rights, July 1, 1960. The steps taken by the opposition leaders should embarrass Canadians. This is not what we voted for only six short weeks ago. It is an obvious attempt at a power-grab and should not be allowed by the Governor General. The only thing this is going to accomplish is more economic instability.

TANYA KIENEKER, OTTAWA, ONT

Word on the street: Will you be giving money to a Christmas charity this year despite the global economic downturn?

Shafin Karim
age 38, Vancouver
A: It's even more important right now with the economy the way it is. Were all kind of in the same boat.

David Sistilli
age 21, Vaughan, Ont.
A: Yes, probably. Because any money will help. It doesn't have to be $100 or $500, but every little bit makes a difference.

Donna Phillips
age 42, Truro
A: Yes, but we don't do it during a specific season. We give over the year to certain charities that we support.

Sophie Murphy
age 22, Dartmouth
A: I would say yes, because of economic crisis, people have needs that need to be met.

Graham Hart
age 21, Dartmouth
A: I definitely plan on giving to charity, probably in the form of donating time for charity.

metro life panel

Metro Life Panel

Results from the Canadian Metro Life Panel (357 respondents):

Yes: 25%
No: 7 %
Don't know: 68%

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Possible replacements for Clinton's senate spot include her husband

New York Gov. David Paterson has famous names to choose from in picking a replacement for Senator Hillary Clinton, including a Kennedy, a Cuomo and even another Clinton – as in the former president of the United States. Speculation over Bill Clinton, while intriguing, is largely dismissed as politically impractical. REUTERS

World/Business

U.S. looks to ease tensions

U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice flew to New Delhi yesterday hoping to ease tension between India and Pakistan that has surged over the Mumbai attacks and put U.S. counterterrorism efforts in the region at risk.

The three-day rampage by 10 Islamist gunmen in India's financial capital last week stoked longstanding Indian suspicions that Pakistan is unwilling, or unable, to stop militants on its soil from attacking India.

Rice cut short a European tour to go to India to meet Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, who is under election-year pressure to craft a muscular response to opposition criticism that his ruling Congress party is weak on security.

On Monday, India renewed a longstanding demand for custody of about 20 fugitives it believes are hiding in Pakistan.

Officials said the list includes Dawood Ibrahim, a Mumbai underworld boss blamed for 1993 bombings in Mumbai that killed 250, and Maulana Masood Azhar, a Pakistani Muslim cleric freed from jail in India in exchange for passengers on a hijacked jet.

Indian Foreign Minister Pranab Mukherjee said military action was not being considered, but later warned a peace process begun in 2004 was at risk if Pakistan did not act decisively.

His Pakistani counterpart offered a joint probe to find the militants responsible for the killing spree in Mumbai in which 183 people were killed.

"We don't want to do anything in haste. We don't want to do anything that fuels confrontation," Pakistani Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi said. REUTERS

Croatian cops arrest Facebook activists

CIVIL RIGHTS Croatian police have detained and questioned web activists who are criticizing or ridiculing the government, media and the opposition say, accusing authorities of violating basic civil rights.

Media said yesterday police had detained organizers of a group on Facebook, the online social-networking site, which called an anti-government rally in several towns, including the capital Zagreb, for Friday. The group has more than 80,000 members.

"For the first time since the 1990s, Croatia is starting to enforce repression against its citizens who want to freely express their political stands," Nacional weekly said.

It said police had arrested a co-ordinator of the protests in the Adriatic city of Zadar. Business.hr news website said police had detained and questioned another activist in Zagreb, who had been posting protest posters on billboards in the capital. REUTERS

Venezuela **Opposing Chavez**

JORGE SILVA/REUTERS

Opposition supporters hold a banner depicting national hero Simon Bolivar as they protest against Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez's proposal of constitutional change in Caracas yesterday. Chavez is gambling his future on a referendum to change the constitution so he can run for re-election.

Business

Oilsands threaten to kill millions of birds: Study

A coalition of North American environmental groups says the development of Canada's oilsands region threatens to kill as many as 166 million birds over the next five decades and is calling for a moratorium on new projects in the region.

The coalition, which includes the Natural Resources Defence Council (NRDC), the Boreal Songbirds Initiative and the Pembina Institute, say petroleum-extraction projects in the oil-rich region of northern Alberta are a threat to migratory birds and the boreal forest they rely on.

Their study concluded that development of the oilsands, would be fatal for six million to 166 million birds because of habitat loss, shrinking wetlands, accumulation of toxins and other causes.

The solution, the groups say, is to halt new projects in the oilsands and to clean up existing facilities. They are also calling for strengthened regulations to protect Canada's vast boreal, or northern, forest and for Alberta, whose government has backed oilsands developments, to prove the resource can be exploited without serious environmental harm.

The report estimates about half of North America's migratory birds nest in the boreal forest and between 22 million and 170 million birds breed in areas that could be subject to oilsands development. REUTERS

TSX index sent on wild see-saw ride

MARKETS The S&P/TSX composite index ended a see-saw session lower yesterday as news that insurer Manulife Financial will issue new stock offset rallying energy shares after talk of a takeover of Nexen Inc.

The tug-of-war left the index up 120 points then down 186 points before closing down 78.40 points, or 0.93 per cent, at 8,327.81. REUTERS

In brief

BAILOUT James Arnett, a high-profile lawyer with corporate-restructuring experience, was named late Monday as special adviser on the auto sector by the federal and Ontario provincial governments. He will help evaluate the condition of the auto industry and its future.

AUTOS U.S. automakers sharpened their pleas for a government lifeline yesterday as overhaul plans were submitted to Congress. Ford asked for a $9 billion US credit line, while GM asked for $12 billion US in loans and another $6 billion US in a credit line. REUTERS

News in brief

DISEASE The death toll from Zimbabwe's worst recorded cholera epidemic has risen to nearly 500, the World Health Organization said yesterday, in a sign of the rapidly deepening crisis. The spread of cholera is normally a preventable and treatable disease. REUTERS

NOVA SCOTIA
Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal

HALIFAX
REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

There will be a public consultation session for a new interchange on Highway 102 (Bicentennial Highway) at Larry Uteck Boulevard, between Kearney Lake Road (Exit 2) and Hammonds Plains Road (Exit 3). **A recommended layout has been developed and will be presented at the session.** Staff from the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal and the Halifax Regional Municipality will be available to answer questions.

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Phelps named SI's sportman of the year

U.S. swimmer Michael Phelps was honoured as Sports Illustrated's sportsman of the year yesterday. Phelps broke Mark Spitz's record with eight gold medals at the Beijing Olympics in August and became the winningest Olympian ever with his 14 career victories. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sports

Avery suspended for comment

The NHL suspended former Cole Harbour resident Sean Avery, left, of the Dallas Stars before last night's game in Calgary due to lewd comments made regarding his former girlfriend, actress Elisha Cuthbert, and her current boyfriend, Flames defenceman Dion Phaneuf. "I just want to comment on how it's become like a common thing in the NHL for guys to fall in love with my sloppy seconds," Avery said yesterday. The suspension is reportedly indefinite, pending a hearing with NHL commissioner Gary Bettman. METRO NEWS SERVICES

SPORTS@METRONEWS.CA

Crosby wins first star of the week

NHL Pittsburgh Penguins centre Sidney Crosby of Cole Harbour was named NHL's First Star for the week ending November 30 and goaltenders Jonas Hiller of Anaheim and Chris Mason from St. Louis joined him on the Three Stars list.

Sidney Crosby

Crosby led all NHL scorers this past week with nine points on six goals and three assists as the Penguins went 2-1-0 in that time.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Giants suspend Burress 4 games

NFL The New York Giants suspended wide receiver Plaxico Burress four games and placed him on the reserve/non-football injury list, officially ending his season.

Burress recently surrendered to authorities and was arraigned on a pair of weapons charges stemming from an accidental shooting Friday night. The wide receiver was shot in the right thigh and spent time at a New York-area hospital.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Blue Jays have a tough day

YorkReport

Marty York

marty.york@metronews.ca

It hit the Blue Jays' front office about as hard as a Roy Halladay fastball to the jaw.

As first reported at metronews.ca after noon yesterday, Canada's MLB franchise laid off about 40 employees on what surviving members of the front office have labelled Black Tuesday.

"So much for happy holidays," a Blue Jays source lamented. "A big chunk of the sales staff has been laid off. It's a very, very, very sad day. A morbid day. We're seeing a lot of tears here (at the Rogers Centre). First, we came into the office to the news that our owner (Ted Rogers) just died. And then the layoffs. I guess this day will go down for the rest of time as Black Tuesday for the Jays."

A number of divisions within the Rogers corporation were affected by the downsizing. It's yet another lousy sign of the times. Devastating economy. Recession. Dismal exchange rate. Misery. Lost jobs.

The Jays are the first sports organization in Canada to demonstrate their troubles with massive layoffs.

Sources who know about these sorts of things told me no Canadian sports franchise in history has laid off as many employees in one day as the Jays did yesterday.

And brace yourself because, sadly, other clubs surely will follow suit.

"It's an awful feeling," one of the Jays' laid-off salesmen told me. "It's hard to believe that they can offer tens of millions of dollars to a pitcher like A.J. Burnett and yet get rid of all of us like this. Put all of us (laid-off employees) together and we wouldn't even make half of what Burnett would get for one year ... It's hard to take."

And, oh yes, the Jays also have cancelled their annual Christmas party.

• It should be a happier day Sunday at the Rogers Centre, where the NFL will play its first regular-season game on Canadian turf.

The Buffalo Bills and Miami Dolphins (including ex-Argonauts dud Ricky Williams) will meet, though Rogers Centre sources anticipate empty seats.

In recent weeks, Rogers reduced prices for some of the seats for the Bills-Dolphins tilt.

• Like Calgary Stampeders kicker Sandro DeAngelis, Hamilton Tiger-Cats kicker Nick Setta has drawn considerable attention from NFL sources. Setta, however, is strongly leaning toward re-signing with the Ticats for considerably less money than he could make if he cracked an NFL roster.

"In all honesty, I like Hamilton," Setta said. "I honestly want to stay."

Setta led the CFL in the past season with a punting average of 47.4 yards.

Marty York has been a groundbreaking sports columnist and broadcaster in Canada for decades.

Ticket to Tampa

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Canadiens barely hang on to top Thrashers

NHL RESULTS

Montreal 5 Atlanta 4

VS

NHL Robert Lang's empty-net goal proved to be the game-winner in a wild finish at Bell Centre in Montreal last night, as the Canadiens blew a three-goal lead in the third period but eventually barely held on to secure a 5-4 victory over the Atlanta Thrashers.

Andrei Kostitsyn's goal with 5:11 remaining in regulation put the Habs back on top 4-3 after they allowed three Atlanta goals within 59 seconds earlier in the period.

Andrei Markov, Matt D'Agostini and Tomas Plekanec also scored for Montreal, which has won three of its last four games. Carey Price allowed four goals on 26 shots in the victory.

Ron Hainsey scored twice for the Thrashers, who produced a stellar comeback with the three quick goals that erased a 3-0 deficit. Jason Williams scored with 20 seconds remaining.

With the score tied 3-3, the Canadiens grabbed a one-goal lead at the 14:49 mark of the third on Kostitsyn's fifth goal. When Lang deposited the disc into the empty net — after Atlanta pulled Hedberg for the extra skater — with 1:15 to go, the crowd headed for the exits. However, Williams made things interesting by beating Price to make it 5-4.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

REUTERS/SHAUN BEST

Former Moosehead Alex Tanguay, left, collides with the Atlanta Thrashers' Jim Slater during last night's game.

Sports in brief

MLB The White Sox have reportedly traded pitcher Javier Vazquez to the Atlanta Braves, who will send three players to Chicago, all of whom were undisclosed.

NBA Houston Rockets guard Tracy McGrady will miss three weeks while rehabbing his sore left knee, which was surgically repaired last offseason.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

SCOREBOARD

QMJHL

STANDINGS
ATLANTIC DIVISION

	W	L	OL	PTS
Moncton	21	2	4	46
Cape Breton	19	8	2	40
Saint John	17	13	2	36
Bathurst	12	14	6	30
P.E.I.	11	15	5	27
HALIFAX	**9**	**19**	**2**	**20**

LAST NIGHT'S RESULTS
Rimouski 5 Lewiston 2
Gatineau 2 Rouyn-Noranda 1

TONIGHT'S GAMES
Drummondville at Bathurst, 7
Moncton at Cape Breton, 7
Gatineau at Val-d'Or, 8

NHL

LAST NIGHT'S RESULTS
Philadelphia 4 Tampa Bay 3 (OT)
Florida 5 Washington 3
Montreal 5 Atlanta 4
Dallas at Calgary
Los Angeles at Phoenix
Toronto at San Jose

TONIGHT'S GAMES
Atlanta at Ottawa
Pittsburgh at N.Y. Rangers
St. Louis at Minnesota
Anaheim at Chicago
Dallas at Edmonton

NBA

LAST NIGHT'S RESULTS
Indiana 118 L.A. Lakers 117
Portland 104 New York 94
Washington 108 New Jersey 88
Detroit at San Antonio
Philadelphia at Chicago
L.A. Clippers at Dallas
Toronto at Denver
Utah at Sacramento

TONIGHT'S GAMES
Memphis at Atlanta
Minnesota at Orlando
New York at Cleveland
L.A. Lakers at Philadelphia
Portland at Washington
Oklahoma City at Charlotte
Indiana at Boston
Chicago at Milwaukee
Phoenix at New Orleans
L.A. Clippers at Houston
Miami at Utah

NFL

WEEK 14
THURSDAY'S GAME
Oakland at San Diego, 9:15

SUNDAY'S GAMES
Minnesota at Detroit, 2
Cleveland at Tennessee, 2
Houston at Green Bay, 2
Atlanta at New Orleans, 2
Jacksonville at Chicago, 2
Philadelphia at N.Y. Giants, 2
Cincinnati at Indianapolis, 2
Miami vs. Buffalo (at Toronto), 5:05
New England at Seattle, 5:05
N.Y. Jets at San Francisco, 5:05
Kansas City at Denver, 5:05
Dallas at Pittsburgh, 5:15
St. Louis at Arizona, 5:15
Washington at Baltimore, 9:15

MONDAY'S GAME
Tampa Bay at Carolina, 9:30

Lions end eight-game losing streak

The Halifax Lions snapped an eight-game losing streak last night at the Forum with a 7-4 win over the Dieppe Commandos in Maritime Junior A Hockey League play. Jonathan McArthur had a huge game for the Lions with two goals and four assists. Chad Locke added a hat trick and two helpers. **METRO HALIFAX**

Brown learning from his mistakes

Former NCAA star knows that being selfless is the only way to succeed in basketball

RYAN TAPLIN/METRO HALIFAX

Halifax Rainman guard SirValiant Brown goes through drills during training camp at the University of King's College gym yesterday.

MATTHEW WUEST
matthew.wuest@metronews.ca

SirValiant Brown freely admits that greed led to the gaudy point totals that jump off of his college résumé.

The former NCAA Division 1 scoring star at George Washington also doesn't hesitate to say that greed ultimately cost him a chance at the NBA career he dreamed of.

It's a dream Brown isn't letting go of, and the 26-year-old is hoping for a fresh start as he hits the hardwood with the Halifax Rainmen at training camp this week.

"I was greedy, only worrying about myself and how I performed out on the court, and I never did well in a team setting," Brown says. "But that was in my younger days."

The 6-foot-1 guard was the one of the NCAA's most sensational freshman in 1999-2000, when he stormed into George Washington and averaged 24.6 points per game — in large part because he jacked up almost 24 shots per game. He almost became the first rookie to lead the nation in scoring.

His career went off the rails after his sophomore season, when he left school to enter the NBA draft. Rumours swirled that he'd be a top-20 selection, but he didn't get picked.

Thus began an eight-year minor-pro odyssey that featured a whopping 16 stops, including Greece, Uruguay, Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, and, most recently, Iceland.

Brown says his decision to leave college was a mistake because he never had a chance to round out his game.

"I take the blame," he says. "I was just basing it on rumours that I'd be picked. I just said, 'Oh, wow.' You're young. You're really young. You want to help your friends get out of whatever situation they're in (financially) and you do it."

Although fame and fortune have eluded him, the former Atlantic 10 rookie of the year says "it's been a good journey."

He sported an old George Washington T-shirt and a Jumpman headband as the Rainmen opened camp at King's College yesterday, and was a willing participant in the gruelling technical drills of head coach Rick Lewis.

It's all part of what Brown calls a newfound commitment to team, which he hopes will get him to the NBA.

"Why not?" he says. "Do the right thing, listen to the right people and don't do it my way, the way I did it in the past. The sky's the limit, I hope. It's been a long journey. We'll see."

What's in a name?

• SirValiant Brown has a brother named SirLancelot and a sister named Guinevere. Why the cool names?

"My dad is all into (King Arthur's) Knights of the Round Table," says Brown, who often goes by Val. "In our house, he's got the Excalibur sword, framed comic books and movies."

Brown has taken a shine to it too, with a large tattoo of the Excalibur sword on his upper right arm.

MATTHEW WUEST/METRO HALIFAX

MacMillan set to return to Moose

MATTHEW WUEST
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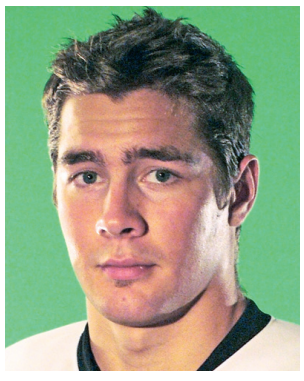
QMJHL The Halifax Mooseheads are expected to welcome Logan MacMillan back to the lineup on Friday.

The 19-year-old forward has missed 14 games as well as the ADT Canada-Russia Challenge with a knee injury sustained in a collision at practice back on Oct. 27.

MacMillan, who has four goals and four assists in nine games, is unlikely to disrupt the top line of Tomas Knotek, Yuri Cheremetiev and Jessyko Bernard, assembled in his absence. More likely, he'll stabilize the second line, possibly on the left wing with Alexis Piette at centre and Linden Bahm on the right.

The Mooseheads, 9-19-2, play three games in three days starting on the road Friday against the Bathurst Titan.



The Mooseheads expect Logan MacMillian to return to the team on Friday.

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Saint Mary's aims to host Vanier Cup

MATTHEW WUEST
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CIS FOOTBALL Saint Mary's University has stepped forward as a potential host of the Vanier Cup in 2009, 2010 and 2011.

The school announced yesterday it has sent a letter of intent to Canadian Interuniversity Sport expressing its interest in hosting football's annual national championship.

Saint Mary's plans to form a committee to explore the feasibility of submitting a proposal to the CIS in the new year.

"We wanted to be sure the CIS knows we're interested, and now we have time to explore fully what would be required to host it successfully," said Saint Mary's spokesman Chuck Bridges. "It should not be a drain. We see it as an exciting opportunity for the football program and for the community."

The CIS did not initially receive any bids to host the event, but a number of schools, including Laval, have stepped up since. Last year's championship was held at Ivor Wynn Stadium in Hamilton, Ont., drawing a crowd of 13,873.

Saint Mary's will need to add more seats to Huskies Stadium, which typically fits about 4,000. Temporary seating was used for a CFL exhibition game in 2005 to squeeze in 11,148.

"Many discussions need to take place, and seating is the obvious challenge," Bridges said. "Sourcing the seats and having them up in time would be an important first step."

> **"We see it as an exciting opportunity for the football program and for the community."**
> Chuck Bridges

Rainmen lose two signees

MATTHEW WUEST
matthew.wuest@metronews.ca

BASKETBALL The Halifax Rainmen had a couple of no-shows on yesterday's opening day of training camp. Jason McGriff, a 6-foot-9 post player, and Jabulah Murray, a 6-foot-3 guard, both failed to report after signing contracts last month.

A total of 14 players were on the court yesterday, with a 15th, Eric Crookshank, scheduled to fly in last night.

Among the 15, 10 are signed. The other five are tryouts, including North Preston native and last-minute invite Derico Wigginton, who was a member of last year's Rainmen.

ShareYourViews
halifaxletters@metronews.ca

Automotive

A METRO JOINT VENTURE WITH: carguide magazine.com

EDITOR: KUMAR SAHA, KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

Christmas gifts for the fast and the furious

If celebrating Christmas "fast" is your style, then Lamborghini's range of 2008 baubles, bears, candles and cushions are now available, in the special matt black and white colours launched this year on its new 202 mph Lamborghini Gallardo LP 560-4.

The boxset of three baubles in light-weight ceramic is available with one Nero Noctis black and two Mono Cerus white in each box: both colours available to order on the Gallardo LP 560-4.

Box sets of one black, one white, slow-burning candles are offered, and the 13-inch Lamborghini shield-embroidered cushions in the two colours complete the collection.

When it's time to slow Christmas down, or for younger Lamborghini fans at Christmas, cuddle up to the Lamborghini polar bear, which sports a black sweater and the Lamborghini logo.

Lamborghini also has a range of calendars and Christmas cards available to order.

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Honda Fits like a glove

Subcompact still class leader for fun

When you're a hit, life's easy. And Honda's Fit has definitely been a hit in Canada, continually selling out its yearly allotment with ease. Beyond just being a spacious and fuel-efficient hatchback, the Fit's fun-to-drive character is what keeps customers coming back for more.

Less than three years into Fit's stay in Canada, Honda has significantly revised it for 2009.

During the Canadian press launch in Montreal, Honda executives took great pains to ensure that journalists understood that the company was pitching the new Fit at young, single, urban, active, environmentally conscious customers. They even held the technical briefing in Canadian DJ Max Graham's über-hip loft in historic Vieux-Montreal. However, when pressed on who actually bought the original Fit, much like Honda's Element SUV, the spectrum was much broader — and older.

Fit version-2.0 gets the usual size inflation to make it more palatable for, ahem, larger passengers. Length and width are up by a huge 4,110 mm and 1,695 mm respectively to help create a more livable cabin and increased cargo capacity, while the wheelbase and track stretch 2,500 mm and 1,475 mm, making for a more confident ride on the highway.

2009 Honda Fit

Type: Subcompact
Price: $14,980 - $19,280
Engine: I-4, SOHC, 1.5L
HP: 117 @ 6,600 rpm

Highlights

- Fun to drive
- Affordable
- Fuel-efficient

Honda's styling department didn't have to work that hard at updating the Fit's sheetmetal. Throw a crease here, add a character line there… It's a very familiar shape, and can easily be mistaken for the older version.

The added length has thrown the Fit's cute styling proportions a bit out of whack up front. While the new version is more angular and sharper than the egg-like original, there's a reason why you won't see many side-on photographs. For whatever reason — call it having to meet old Canadian bumper regulations, North American "tastes", etc. — our Fit gets a more prominent proboscis that's none too flattering. European and Japanese-market Jazz's are much tidier.

The Fit's mechanicals stay very familiar, meaning an innovative floorpan that keeps the fuel tank under the front seats. Suspension remains MacPherson struts up front with a torsion-beam out back, but the geometry has been altered to provide better handling.

Wheel and tire sizes go up in '09 as well with base DX models getting 15-inch steelies with plastic hubcaps, while LX models get the same 15-inch alloys found on the Civic Hybrid. Fit Sports exclusively get 16-inch alloy wheels.

The 1.5-litre 16-valve SOHC four-cylinder now gains i-VTEC, which increases horsepower to 117 at 6,600 rpm.

Transmissions remain five-speed units: a manual is standard on all trim levels, with the automatic options. However, the neat steering-wheel-mounted shift paddles packaged with the auto trans are gone for '09.

Fuel economy remains strong with the manual scoring 7.2/5.7 L/100 km city/highway. Strangely, for those looking for the ultimately frugal Honda, the automatic Fit actually takes the cake with a 7.1/5.5 L/100 km rating.

CARGUIDE STAFF

Camaro goes on sale

GM of Canada is now taking orders for the 2010 Camaro Coupe.

"Even before pricing in Canada has been finalized, Camaro enthusiasts are anxious to get their orders on the books," said Marc Comeau, vice president of sales, service and marketing for GM of Canada.

"The return of the Camaro and the buzz it has created are great reminders of the passion surrounding this marque and we're confident the new, fuel-efficient 2010 Camaro will make enthusiasts out of a whole new generation of drivers as well."

Orders can be placed through a Chevrolet dealer who will have information regarding early ordering, vehicle packaging and specifications. This information us also available online at *www.camaro.gm.ca*.

Production

- Camaro production is scheduled to begin in mid-February 2009 at the award-winning Oshawa, Ont., car-assembly plant, with dealership deliveries beginning immediately.

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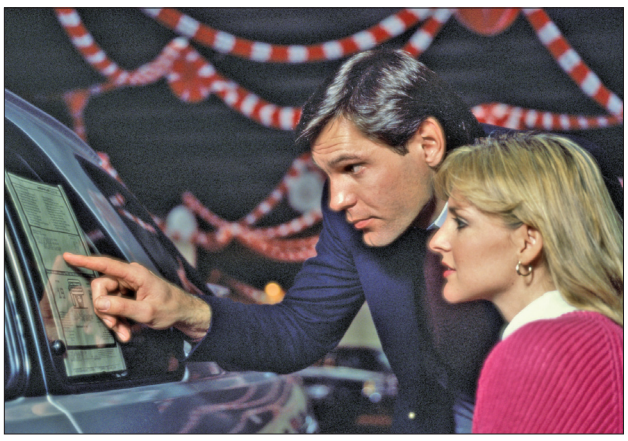

If you're in the market for a car but stressed about your wallet, there are many ways you can stretch your car-buying dollar.

Riding the tough times

Today's tough economy has millions of consumers seeking ways to spend less and save more.

If you're in the market for a car but stressed about your wallet, here are some important tips to help you stretch your car-buying dollar. Deals abound, so do your homework.

Because car dealers are now moving inventory to make room for 2009 vehicles, pay attention to local dealer websites, newspapers and circulars for price cuts and special promotions on 2008 makes and models they must clear off their lots.

If you need car financing, be sure to check a variety of lenders, such as your local credit union, to find rates and loan terms that work best for you.

If you finance through the car dealer, check your credit score online and bring this information with you to the dealership to help determine the types of financing programs you qualify for.

Finally, making a larger down payment could help you qualify for financing programs for which you may not have initially qualified, reducing your monthly car payment expenses in the process.

When it comes to selecting a car, be flexible. Research a variety of makes and models in the same or similar class to find comparably equipped cars at more affordable prices.

You may find a second, third or even fourth choice that costs less, without sacrificing the quality and features you really want.

The minute you drive a new car off the lot, it depreciates in value, so consider buying a used car.

Not only will you avoid hefty depreciation costs from the get-go, there's a good chance you'll find a great used car in excellent condition for less money than a new car.

If buying a used car scares you, check into certified pre-owned vehicles (CPO), which have gone through rigorous inspections and come with solid warranties for added peace of mind.

When it comes to selecting a car, be flexible. Research a variety of makes and models ... to find comparably equipped cars at more affordable prices.

If you're trading in your existing car, research its trade-in prices and be honest with yourself and the dealer about its condition.

Give the car a good detailing and repair any minor damage prior to visiting the dealership. If you financed the car, know how much you owe on your existing loan. Owing more than it's worth will obviously offset any discounts being offered on your new car, but on the other hand, those new car discounts might enable you to pay off your existing loan.

Finally, don't be afraid to negotiate a fair trade-in price, but be realistic. With the current state of the economy and recent fuel costs, you're likely to get a higher value on a compact versus an SUV.

Automotive in brief

NETWORK Nissan-Renault is to build a nationwide electric car-recharging network in Portugal by 2010. Next up are France, Israel and Denmark.

PULLOUT Mitsubishi, Suzuki, Ferrari, Land Rover, Rolls-Royce and Nissan/Infiniti have bailed on the annual Detroit auto show.

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Ultimate coupes

JIM ROBINSON
for Metro Canada

The 2008 Audi A5 and S5 coupes are at once making a statement about where the company is heading in the future while making a direct connection to its past.

The A5 and S5 are built on a new modular platform that sets the stage for the next generation A4 and many new models to come.

And while it would be easy to say the A5/S5 fits between the A4 and A6, it isn't really that simple.

Coupes appeal to the emotions much more than sedans and Audi hasn't had a coupe in the lineup in 10 years since the wedge-shaped quattro was sweeping all before it in the world rally championship. The road-going versions of those cars are still highly prized.

Coupes are also about image and Audis are nothing if not image, so the coupe was a gap long in need of filling.

At the same time, the 2008 A5 and S5 follow on the heels of the mid-engine, V8 R8 sportscar that was a breakthrough model for Audi in many ways.

The design language of the coupes has a distinct vibrancy about it. Like the R8, the coupes have almost liquid flowing lines with a prominent creased beltline wafting back from the now signature Audi grille. That line runs just below the windows creating taut flanks and allow for generous cutouts for the 17-inch wheels on the A5 and the 19-inchers on the S5.

With the engine set longitudinally instead of transversely, the short snout but long hood with beveled front fenders gives the car a look of purpose when viewed from the front.

While there is far more room inside, especially in the back seating area than a BMW 3-Series, the upsweep of the beltline over the rear fenders and the tail (that almost disappears such is the shortness of the overhang) gives the impression this car already moving though it is standing still.

In Canada we will get one version of the A5 and one of the S5, both with quattro drive and a six-speed, close ration manual transmission. We may or may not get the diesel, but not before 2009.

Like the A4/S4 and the A6/S6, the new coupes are primarily differentiated by engine.

The A5 gets a 3.2-litre, DOHC V6 with 265 hp and 247 lb/ft of torque, slightly more than the current A4 with the same engine. The S5 has the throaty 4.2-litre DOHC V8 as found in the S4, but this time with 354 hp and 325 lb/ft of torque.

The A5 scoots from 0-100 km/h in 6.1 seconds while the S5 cuts that time by a full second going from 0-100 km/h in 5.1 seconds.

How much will this cost you ask?

Well, Audi wasn't answering except to say roughly between the 4 and the 6. So expect the A5 to come in between the $49,475 of the A4 and the $62,700 of the A6. It's the same for the S5, between the $70,390 for the S4 and $101,900 of the hubris-spitting S6.

And with availability not until much before Christmas, it may take a while to get your hands on one, but it's well worth the wait.

The A5 has a long hood, thanks to its longitudinally mounted engine for a very sporting, classic coupe look.

The 2008 Audi S5 makes a statement from any angle, but most effectively from the front with the bold, signature grille.

Audi A5/S5

Type: Coupe
Price: $49,475-$70,390
Engine: V6-V8
HP: 265-354

Highlights

- Flowing design
- Luxurious interior
- 0-100 km/h in 6 seconds

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How to buckle up the right way

Knowing the right way to use child restraints is crucial in protecting your kids.

Thousands of Canadians die every year in motor vehicle collisions because of failure to use or install safety equipment properly. Follow these tips from Transport Canada for a safer ride for you and your family.

SEATBELTS

- Buckle your seatbelt, making sure the latch clicks firmly into place.

Adjust the lap belt so that it fits snugly across your hips and make sure the shoulder belt fits snugly across your chest and over your shoulder.

- Never wear your shoulder belt under your arm. In a collision, your upper body will pivot forward and your head will strike the vehicle interior. The belt will press into your abdomen and likely cause serious or even fatal injuries to internal organs.
- If you're pregnant, take extra care when adjusting your seatbelt. Sit as upright as you can, and wear the lap belt under your abdomen and as low over the hips as possible.
- Bulky winter clothing or large body types can pose a particular risk. Always try to place the lap belt below the bottom edge or fold of a winter jacket or below the lowest part of your belly so that it sits closer to the lap than to the belly button.

AIRBAGS

- Airbags cushion the head as it moves forward or sideways after impact. However, they expand with explosive speed and open faster than the blink of an eye. As a result, a deploying airbag can cause injuries if you are not properly positioned or restrained.
- While most of these injuries consist of minor bruises and abrasions, some can be serious or even fatal. Reduce the chances of injury by wearing a properly adjusted seatbelt, adjusting the vehicle's front seat as far back as possible to give the airbags room to inflate. The distance between the centre of your chest and the steering wheel should be at least 25 cm.
- If your vehicle has airbags, especially side airbags or curtains in the rear, keep the space between you and the airbag clear so that objects aren't pushed towards you when the air bag inflates.

CHILD RESTRAINTS

- Children are protected by seats specifically designed for them.

There are four stages to properly protect children, according to the child's weight and height — rear-facing infant seats, forward-facing child seats, booster seats, and seat belts.

- Avoid the dangers of a front airbag by always placing children, 12 or younger, in the rear seat in properly secured child restraints.
- Keep kids a safe distance from side airbags. Children who are leaning against a side airbag when it inflates are at risk of serious injury.
- Don't let toys, blankets or other objects get between your child and an airbag.

You can find more information and downloads about road safety at *www.tc.gc.ca/hookedonroadsafety/awareness.htm*.

The silver lining

Over U.S. Thanksgiving, U.S. airlines cut capacity 10 per cent from last year. But the upside seems to be that this prevent major snafus that see travellers stuck at airports, unable to find another flight or a hotel room. **REUTERS**

Travel

Vanishing point

Airports seem to have become black holes for business travellers' laptops: 12,000 laptops are lost at U.S. airports every week, and 70 per cent of those laptops — which good Samaritans and airport employees return to lost-and-found departments — are never reclaimed, according to the Ponemon Institute. ITBUSINESS.CA

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The magical Christmas markets of Vienna

CÉLIA PEDROSO
Metro World News

The elegant city of Vienna is well known for its famous chocolate Sachertorte, romantic horse-drawn fiaker carriages, the imperial buildings of Sissi and the Klimt painting The Kiss, which is now celebrating its 100th anniversary. But the winter season brings the Advent and the Christmas markets that give a special atmosphere to the Austrian capital.

Starting from Nov. 15, the Christmas markets are crowded with families browsing the wonderful selection of Christmas decorations, toys and handcrafted gifts. The food stalls offer anything from traditional sausages and cheeses to cakes, biscuits, sweets and chestnuts.

At night, the Viennese meet up with friends and family for a cup of mulled wine glühwein, piping hot to combat the winter chill.

This year there will be 140 wooden booths at the main Christmas market in Vienna, in the Rathauspark opposite the town hall. Children will love the giant trees, including the Heart Tree, embellished with red hearts. Shoppers will find handicrafts at reasonable prices and products such as homemade soaps and organic chocolates.

After shopping, cross the road to try one of the city's famous cakes and coffees at Café Landtmann — a favourite haunt of legendary Viennese psychologist, Freud. Until December 24. www.christkindlmarkt.at.

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Rock and Roll Museum a hit

TheTravelJunkie

Julia Dimon

thetraveljunkie.ca

Rock enthusiasts, break out your air guitars and head to NYC. Opening in the Big Apple this week, the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame Annex, will take visitors "beyond the typical museum experience" to honour "the most defining moments in rock history."

Nestled among Soho's boutiques, the Annex is a 250,000 square foot building stocked with music memorabilia. It's not as comprehensive as her sister museum in Cleveland Ohio, but Annex does have a wide selection of rock relics, including: An Elvis "peacock" jump suit, handwritten letters from Paul Simon to Art Garfunkel, Bruce Springsteen's 1957 yellow Chevy and John Lennon's piano heard in the 1970's hit Imagine.

A visit to the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame Annex starts in the theatre, a gallery designed to look like a concert venue. Seated among the bar stools, museum-goers watch a toe-tapping, ten-minute music montage. Iconic stars, everyone from Aretha Franklin to U2, sing their hearts out to a crowd of screaming virtual fans. With surround sound, flashing stage lights and video projections, the theatre experience makes you feel like part of the concert.

Madonna's infamous Jean-Paul Gaultier gold bustier.

In the next gallery, wireless audio devices, an iPod-like box complete with headphones, are handed out. Press play and the music automatically syncs up with the memorabilia you're looking at.

While standing in front of Johnny Cash's 1985 black leather boots, the audio guide blasts a fiery tune from the Man in Black. Moving towards Madonna's gold bustier, designed by Jean Paul Gaultier for her Blonde Ambition tour, the country music fades and transitions to the Material Girl's hit Express Yourself.

Since the museum and the technology are new, there are still a few glitches to be worked out. If you move around the room too quickly, the technology struggles to keep up. Scrambling songs from different artists, my audio guide played Bruce Springsteen when I was near the Grandmaster Flash exhibit and faded to Elvis Priestly when I was near the Buddy Holly's acoustic guitar. Despite these tiny inconveniences (which engineers are working to fix), the technology is pretty impressive, giving a new, interactive dimension to traditional museum-going.

A Top 40 kind of girl, I was most impressed by Michael Jackson's handwritten lyrics to Billy Jean, the legendary hit on the Thriller album that sold 40 million worldwide. Die-hard rock lovers may be more intrigued by the exhibit dedicated to The Clash, which showcases the British punk movement and follows its social impact on fashion, film and politics.

No matter your musical taste, New York's new Rock & Roll Hall of Fame is sure to have some unique piece of memorabilia that will awaken your rebellious inner rock star and take it on a nostalgic journey.

Visit *rockannex.com* for more information.

Julia Dimon is co-host of Word Travels, airing on OLN, and editor of thetraveljunkie.ca.

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Essence reveals most influential
Actor Will Smith, moviemaker Tyler Perry and singer/actress Queen Latifah have joined U.S. president elect Barack Obama on Essence magazine's coveted Most Influential African-Americans list. The quartet is joined by rapper Kanye West and hip-hop icons Wyclef Jean and will.i.am. IMDB.COM

Entertainment

Blanchett's star

Actress Cate Blanchett is to be honoured with the 2,376th star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. She will unveil her star in front of the Egyptian Theatre on Friday.
IMDB.COM

EDITOR: TINA COSTANZA, TINA.COSTANZA@METRONEWS.CA

From Broadway to Sunset Strip

Movie adaptations of hit plays sometimes struggle to jump those cultural divides

STEVE GOW
for Metro Canada

William Shakespeare has been jokingly called the most prolific screenwriter in Hollywood. At no time is that perhaps more befitting than right now.

With upcoming movie adaptations of such plays as Frost/Nixon and the Pulitzer Prize-winning Doubt, it seems Hollywood is looking evermore toward the stage for the sake of the big-screen.

"There's some great stuff out there in theatre," said filmmaker Darren Lynn Bousman who directed Repo! The Genetic Opera on stage before recently adapting it for the cinema. "Even in Los Angeles, these little black box theatres have incredible things that, in my mind, are better than a lot of movies out there."

Perhaps no one knows this better than Luke Brown. As associate artistic director of Halifax's Neptune Theatre, he has just staged a successful run of Frost/Nixon and will be presenting Doubt in March.

"When we chose the show, we weren't even aware of the film," said Brown, admitting that cinematic counterparts aren't always advantageous from a marketing perspective: As they discovered staging The Producers last year.

"The film wasn't really well received and I think that may have hurt some people's view of going to see it (as a play)."

While musical-adaptations generally perform better on film, plays like Frost/Nixon continue to struggle jumping the cinematic synapse: Mamma Mia! earned an estimated $143 million in multiplexes, but the Tony Award-winning play-turned-movie History Boys only wrangled $2.7 million.

Conversely, more successful has been reworking film for theatre. With Dirty Dancing, The Color Purple, Young Frankenstein and even Shrek being adapted for the stage, the lights of Broadway could easily be mistaken for the billboards on Sunset Strip.

"If people are laying down $50 for something, they want to lay down $50 for something they're familiar with," said Brown about the trend. "Something that they haven't heard of, people may be a little more hesitant to throw down money on."

Surprisingly, as a theatre person, Brown isn't insulted by this rejuvenated fad of turning films into theatre. In fact, he only has one deep regret and that's the stage-adaptation of cult zombie classic Evil Dead.

"I was devastated when I heard it was being done (for the stage)," said Brown. "I wanted to do it myself."

Frank Langella, left, plays Richard Nixon while Michael Sheen plays journalist David Frost in the screen adaptation of the play Frost/Nixon, in theatres this month.

Rowling back with new book

BOOKS A new book by British author J.K. Rowling, her unofficial farewell to the adventures of boy wizard Harry Potter which made her the world's wealthiest writer, goes on sale on Thursday.

Proceeds from The Tales of Beedle the Bard, expected to become an international bestseller even though the seven-book Potter series is over, will go to a charity for vulnerable children in Eastern Europe co-founded by Rowling.

Beedle the Bard is a collection of five fairy tales and is mentioned in the final Potter book Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows as having been left to the boy wizard's friend Hermione Granger by Albus Dumbledore, headmaster of Hogwarts school.

Only one of the five stories — The Tale of the Three Brothers — was recounted in the Potter book, and the volume contains clues that were to prove crucial to Potter's final mission to destroy Lord Voldemort. Illustrated copies of Beedle the Bard made by Rowling fetched $4 million at auction a year ago.

REUTERS

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Zoolander sequel in the works
Ben Stiller has confirmed he is working on a sequel to his 2001 comedy hit Zoolander. IMDB.COM

Panda earns 16 Annie nods

DreamWorks Animation's Kung Fu Panda fought off stiff competition to earn 16 nominations — the most for a feature — for the International Animated Film Society's 36th Annual Annie Awards.

That includes a nomination for best animated feature, a category in which it is competing with Pixar Animation Studios' WALL-E — considered the frontrunner for the Oscar — which earned seven nominations. Panda and WALL-E also earned one additional nomination each in the best video-game competition.

The top category is rounded out by nominations for Walt Disney Animation Studios' Bolt, a 3-D release that earned five nominations; Sony Pictures Classics' Waltz With Bashir, Israel's award-winning documentary, which took four nominations; and Sherman Pictures/Lama Films' $9.99, a stop-motion title that earned two nominations.

Blue Sky Studios' Dr. Suess' Horton Hear a Who, a Fox release, also had a strong showing with five nominations.

All of these features are short-listed for this season's animated feature Oscar competition.

REUTERS

Swayze denies reports he is near death

PEOPLE Dirty Dancing star Patrick Swayze, who has pancreatic cancer, yesterday denied tabloid stories that he is near death.

Swayze, 56, said in a statement he was home with his family for the holidays after finishing work on his new television series The Beast.

"The only thorn in my side (is) that many tabloids have been consistently reporting lies and false information about me and those close to me," Swayze said.

Lately, he said, "They're reporting that I'm on my last legs and saying goodbye to my tearful family."

> **"The only thorn in my side (is) that many tabloids have been consistently reporting lies and false information about me and those close to me."**
> Patrick Swyaze

The National Enquirer has reported Swayze's cancer spread to his liver. The Globe, another tabloid, placed the actor's photo on its cover with the headline Swayze Deathbed Secret!

Tabloid reports said Swayze had only weeks to live when the actor revealed in March he had been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer.

"It's a battle, and so far, I've been winning. I'm one of the lucky few that responds well to treatment," Swayze said.

The Texas-born Swayze is best known for playing dance instructor Johnny Castle in the 1987 film Dirty Dancing.

REUTERS

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metro
Do it daily.

Lopez returning to pageant
After a year off, Mario Lopez of Extra returns to host the Miss America pageant, to be televised live from Las Vegas on Jan. 24. **PEOPLE.COM**

Galactica movie green-lit

IntelleVision

Rick McGinnis
rick.mcginnis@metronews.ca

GEEK CHRISTMAS CAME EARLY THIS YEAR: It's been sort of on and maybe off so many times now that I've gotten tired of getting hopes up, but according to Variety, the Battlestar Galactica prequel Caprica has been given the green light by the Sci Fi Channel.

With the end in sight for Galactica — the last half of the fourth season begins in January and ends on March 20 — Sci Fi needs something to keep its basement-dwelling, WoW-playing, Trek convention-going, collectible figurine collecting constituency pumped up, though they might have to subsist on Galactica's vapours (and a few weekend-long Babylon 5 marathons) until then.

"We want people to come to this who have never heard of Battlestar Galactica," Dave Howe, Sci Fi president, told Variety. "I think, because (Galactica's) backdrop was space and spaceships, there was a barrier to entry for some viewers.

"Caprica has none of that. It's an intense family drama set on an Earthlike planet, in the near future, speaking to a lot of the ethical dilemmas that we as a human race are going to have to face very shortly."

As everyone knows, prime among those "ethical dilemmas" is whether to sleep with your sexy humanoid robot, so it's all good in geekland, especially since the pilot for the show was completed months ago, and will likely be leaked to file sharing sites quicker than you can say "Greedo shot first."

STONEHENGE, THE PYRAMIDS, ACCORDING TO JIM: You don't have to be ancient or huge to be a wonder — you only have to last well beyond even the most generous expectations of your apparently invisible fans, at least according to TV critic Alan Sepinwall of the New Jersey Star-Ledger.

Sepinwall was writing on the occasion of this week's return of According to Jim to the airwaves for its eighth season, which he calls "an amazing feat, not just in the history of television, but possibly in the history of mankind itself."

Among the shows the Jim Belushi vehicle has outlasted on the small screen are The Mary Tyler Moore Show, Taxi, The Honeymooners and I Love Lucy.

Since it first aired on ABC, According to Jim has buried Arrested Development, Undeclared, Andy Richter Controls the Universe and Back to You, and held its own against 24, NCIS and American Idol, and if it survives another season, it'll have matched The Cosby Show for longevity and produced more episodes than Seinfeld.

With that thought, let's pause for a moment and heave a deep, soul-shuddering sob before continuing with our apparently meaningless lives.

Rick McGinnis writes about music, movies, books and television, but not opera.

Dancing her way home

KAMIA CREELMAN
for Metro Canada

DANCE Nova Scotia's daughter has, after 36 years, danced her way home. Nova Bhattacharya's latest solo dance show, Incantations, is debuting in Halifax — the city of her birth — this week.

Bhattacharya says shefeels deep ties to this province: After all, it's her namesake.

Her parents emigrated from India in the '70s and named their first daughter — born at the Grace hospital — Nova. Six years later, they named their second daughter Scotia, even though by that time they were living in Toronto.

"My parents are coming to the opening," Bhattacharya said. "I am so happy to be doing the show in Halifax."

Bhattacharya has been building the show for eight years. The choreography is a crossover between classical Indian technique and contemporary dance.

Bhattacharya said there were times the innovative dances forced her to "rewire her brain."

If you go

- For more information about Nova Bhattacharya's performances, visit *liveartproductions.ca.*

"People who don't know Indian dance find it a detailed, stylized narrative … and people who know Indian dance recognize elements from classical Indian technique but see it in a different context, traveling in a different direction."

Bhattacharya hopes people will stay for a talk she will give vafter Friday's premier.

Often, "the general public has the most touching and astute things to say after a performance," she said,

I saw a show in Montreal once, Bhattacharya said, where an audience member asked why the first part of the dance made her sad and the second made her happy.

The choreographer answered, "It's like looking at a sunset. One day it makes you happy. One day it makes you sad. There's no right way to look at it.

"I like that," Bhattacharya said.

Nova Scotia-born dancer Nova Bhattacharya performs in Halifax this week.

Farrelly, Wessler plan new comedy

MOVIES Comedy veterans Peter Farrelly and Charles Wessler are producing a feature that compiles shorts by a who's who of comedy creators.

Farrelly and Wessler — who collaborated on such '90s comedy hits as Dumb & Dumber and There's Something About Mary — have partnered with Liberty Media's Overture Films studio on the untitled project. The sketch comedy film will encompass as many as 24 shorts.

The producers confirmed that they were in talks with veteran directors — including Brett Ratner, Todd Phillips and Mike Judge — to direct and/or write various segments of the project.

REUTERS

GlobalStyle

Kenya Hunt
Exclusively at metronews.ca/globalstyle

See complete online movie listings, trailers, reviews and purchase tickets at metronews.ca/movies

HA	H	D	B		7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
12/3/08 primetime	31	31	31	ABC	News (N)	ABC Wld News	Inside Edition	Chronicle	Pushing Daisies (N)		Private Practice (N)		Sexy Money
	7	7	7	ASN	The Road to Avonlea		Instant Star	TMZ (N)	Monk		Private Practice (N)		Sexy Money
	11	11	11	CBC	Coronation St.	Jeopardy! (N)	Little Mosque	Sophie (N)	CBC News: the fifth estate (N)		CBC News: The National		The Hour
	2	2	2	CBC-F	Terre humaine	Pyramide (SC)	Virginie (SC)	L'Épicerie	Le Match des étoiles (N) (SC)		M pour musique (HDTV) (SC)		Le Téléjournal
	32	32	32	CBS	News (N)	Evening News	The Insider (N)	Entertainment	Red-Nosed Reindeer		Grammy Nominations Concert		Victoria's Secr
	69	69	69	CFTM	TVA 18 heures	Le Cercle (SC)	Que feriez-	Poule-oeufs or	Destinées (N) (SC)		Les Soeurs Elliot (N) (SC)		TVA 22 heures
	6	6	6	CIHF	Entertainment	ET Canada	The Guard (N)		Bones (N)		Grammy Nominations Concert		News (N)
	9	9	9	CJCH	etalk	Hollywood	So You Think You Can Dance Canada (N)				Law & Order (HDTV) (N)		News (N)
	10	10	10	ELTV	Swap Shop (Live)		Fuelin' Around	Au Natural (N)	Doc Talk	Fuelin' Around	EastLink Television		
	36	36	36	FOX	Deal-No Deal	The Simpsons	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Secret Millionaire (Series Premiere) (N)				Fox First
	12	12	12	NBC	News (N)	NBC News	Hollywood	Extra (N)	Christmas in Rockefeller		Life (HDTV) (N)		Law & Order
	29	29	29	NW	World News	Business	CBC News	Newman	The Hour Sonja Bata.		CBC News: The National		Fast Food
	4	4	4	PBS-B	NewsHour With Jim Lehrer		Greater Boston	A Christmas Celtic Sojourn Live			Stay Rich Forever & Ever With Ed Slott		
	35	35	35	PBS-D	NewsHour With Jim Lehrer		Business Rpt.	Worldfocus	Tutankhamun-Golden Age		Great Performances		
	68	68	68	TQS	(6:30) Le Retour (SC)		450 chemin	Loft Story	*Une seconde chance* ★★ (2003, Com. dramatique)				110 pour cent
news	23	96	96	BNN	Business News	Headline	Market Call	Commodities	Workopolis TV	Business News	Squeeze Play		Market Call
	18	18	18	CNN	(5) The Situation Room		Lou Dobbs Tonight		Campbell Brown: No Bias		Larry King Live		Cooper 360
sports	54	54	54	GOLF	Big Break X: Michigan		Top 10	Top 10	Lessons	Golf Central	School of Golf	School of Golf	School of Golf
	52	52	52	RSE	Prime Time Sports		UEFA Cup Soccer Manchester City vs. Paris Saint Germain FC.				Best Damn Sports Show		Sportsnet Con.
	55	55	55	SCOR	Hockey Talk	Game On	Cabby Unlimit	24/7			College Basketball: Mich. St. vs. UNC		
	45	45	45	SPD	Unique Whips		Pinks	Pass Time	Am. Thunder	Am. Thunder	Pinks	Pinks Outtakes	Knuckles
	53	53	53	TSN	Off the Record	SportsCentre	NHL Hockey Atlanta Thrashers at Ottawa Senators. (HDTV) (Live)					NHL Hockey: Stars at Oilers	
family	43	43	43	FAM	Zoey 101	Life Derek	Wizards-Place	That's-Raven	Zack & Cody	Natural-Sadie	Han. Montana	Life Derek	Ned's School
	44	44	44	TOON	6teen	Total Drama	Santa Claus	Bugs Bunny & Tweety Show		Wayside	Johnny Test	Futurama	The Critic
	26	26	26	TREE	Max & Ruby	Dora the Explorer (N)		Nght Grdn	Friend Rabbit	Franklin	Little Bear	Miss Spider	Comfy Couch
	27	27	27	YTV	Drake & Josh	iCarly	Malcolm-Mid.	Home Improve.	Malcolm-Mid.	Fresh Prince	Futurama	Prank Patrol	Mystery Hnt.
cable variety	16	16	16	A&E	Cold Case Files		CSI: Miami (HDTV)		Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Parking Wars
	70	70	70	APTN	News		Canadian Geographic		Singing Home the Bones		APTN National News: Contact		Tribal Treks
	50	50	50	BET	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live Gabrielle Union. (Live)				*Double Take* ★ (2001, Comedy) Eddie Griffin.				Brother
	37	37	37	BRVO	Street Legal		Desperate Housewives		Berkeley	Bravo!Videos	Wingfield	Letters	Arts & Minds
	25	25	25	CMT	CMT's Greatest "Interviews"		Cheerleaders	Cheerleaders	Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Reba	Reba	Hope & Faith
	49	49	49	COM	Laughs	Comedy Now	Air Farce	Just for Laughs		Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	House Party
	153	153	153	COURT	Missing Link		The Investigators		Cops Uncut	Dumb Criminal	Spy Web: The FBI Spy Files		Investigators
	38	38	38	DISC	How It's Made	How It's Made	Daily Planet (N)		Cash Cab (N)	Destroyed	Monster Moves		Mayday
	34	48	48	HGTV	Holmes on Homes		House Hunters	Property Virgin	Mansions	The Stagers	Property Virgin	Unsellable	$1M Listing
	46	46	46	HIST	Captain Cook: Obsession		NCIS "Twilight"		Cities of the Underworld		Captain Cook: Obsession		NCIS
	17	17	17	MM	Born to Be	disBand	Britney: For The Record			Punk'd	Countdown to Britney		Britney
	19	19	19	MMM	MusicProfile	mmmtop10.com		MusicProfile	Back In	Back In...Love	Revival	Where You At	Fabulous Life
	201	201	201	M1	(6:15) *Becoming Jane* ★★ (2007)			(8:25) *My Daughter's Secret* (2007)			*Cloverfield* ★★★ (2008, Science Fiction)		
	48	23	23	OLN	The Amazing Race 6		Ed's Up	Videos	The Amazing Race 13		Amazing	Ed's Up	Word Travels
	51	51	51	PEACH	Seinfeld	Friends	House-Payne	House-Payne	*Election* ★★★ (1999, Comedy) Matthew Broderick.				Cheers
	206	206	206	PIX	*Airplane II: The Sequel* (1982, Comedy)			*Murray Maguire, M.E.* (2001, Mystery)			*The Usual Suspects* (1995, Suspense)		
	67	67	67	RDI	RDI en direct	RDI en direct	24 Heures en 60 minutes		Grands reportages (SC)		Le Téléjournal (SC)		RDI en direct
	39	39	39	SHOW	EastEnders	Saxondale	Kink in Hair	Kink in Hair	Durham County		Billable Hours	G-Spot	Starter Wife
	40	40	40	SLICE	Matchmaker	Til Debt-Part	End of Leash	ET Canada	Last 10	Bulging Brides	Work Out		Housewives
	47	47	47	SPACE	Stargate SG-1 "Hathor"		Lost		Star Trek: Deep Space Nine		Battlestar Galactica		Ghost Hunters
	14	14	14	SPIKE	UFC Unleashed		UFC Unleashed		UFC Unleashed		UFC Unleashed		Ult. Fighter
	57	98	98	STAR	FashionTele	Look-A-Like	The Ellen DeGeneres Show		Paris Hilton's My New BFF		Paris Hilton's My New BFF		Tonight Show
	21	21	21	TLC	What Not to Wear		Jon & Kate Plus 8 Road		Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate Plus 8		Solved
	56	34	34	TROP	Reality	Ad Persuasion	Beverly Hills, 90210		Reality	What Happen?	Family Guy	Seinfeld	Seinfeld
	20	20	20	TV5	Que.-champion	Journal de Fr2	Toute une histoire		*Les Diablesses* (2007) Anna Mihalcea.			Blanche (SC)	Partir
	28	28	28	V	Side Effects "Worth It"		Murder, She Wrote		Summer Wine	Dinnerladies	Darling Buds of May		Enigma
	60	97	97	VIVA	Mysterious Ways		Judging Amy		Commander In Chief		The West Wing		Mediums
	22	22	22	W	House	Style by Jury	Will & Grace	Friends	Grocery Bag	Maxed Out	Supersize vs. Superskinny		Got the Look
	251	251	251	WGN	Be-Millionaire	Evening News	Two/Half Men	Family Guy	NBA Basketball Chicago Bulls at Milwaukee Bucks. (HDTV) (Live)				

critics'corner

Sophie
It's little Robbie's first birthday, and everyone's there to celebrate, including his father, Andre (Lyriq Bent), in this new episode. And since he's only 1 year old, it probably doesn't register on him that someone is stealing the spotlight. See, Rick (Sebastian Spence) is there with his new client, who turns out to be the hit of the party. Natalie Brown also stars in "Bursting Balloons." 8:30 PM on CBC

Christmas in Rockefeller Center
If you live in the Big Apple, it's not really Christmastime until they light that big tree. If you don't, television's coverage of the event is still a nice way to jump-start your holiday spirit with live music and pretty holiday images. It's the sort of special you can have on while doing something else — like wrapping presents or addressing cards. Enjoy! 9 PM on NBC

The Grammy Nominations Concert Live: Countdown to Music's Biggest Night
This new special celebrates the Grammys and the opening of the Grammy Museum with announcements of this year's nominees and performances by some hot stars. Celine Dion, Foo Fighters, B.B. King, John Mayer and Taylor Swift are scheduled to appear. 10:01 PM on CBS CIHF

Scrubs gets a new chief

Scrubs gets a new network and a new chief of medicine — Courteney Cox Arquette. The NBC comedy is now on ABC, with Cox Arquette appearing in the Season 8 premiere on Jan. 6 as Dr. Maddox in the first of three episodes. PEOPLE.COM

Celebrity Buzz

Gossip set spawns another romance?

RUMOURS There's a new couple on the set of Gossip Girl — Ed Westwick and Jessica Szohr are reportedly dating, imdb.com reports.

Westwick was rumoured to be involved with actress Drew Barrymore, but he has now sent gossips into a spin by apparently stepping out with co-star Szohr.

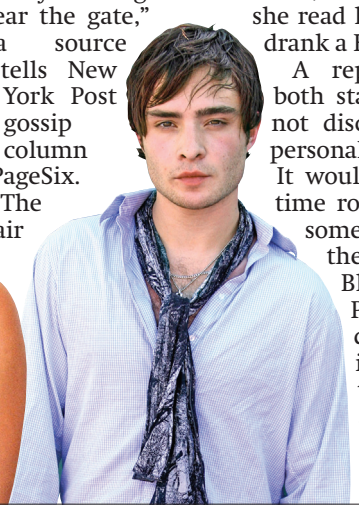
The couple was spotted canoodling at an airport in Dallas, Tex., as they waited to catch a flight to New York on Sunday.

"They were trying to be discreet by stealing kisses near the gate," a source tells New York Post gossip column PageSix. The pair boarded the plane and, according to the source, "they were kissing in the aisles, but once they sat, she read her script and he drank a Heineken."

A representative for both stars said, "We do not discuss our clients' personal life."

It wouldn't be the first time romance had blossomed on the set of the hit teen drama: Blake Lively and Penn Badgley are dating after meeting each other through the show.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Madonna, A-Rod house-hunting?

PEOPLE Madonna and Alex Rodriguez are quietly shopping for love nests on the Upper East Side and on the East End, sources told Page Six.

"Madonna personally came to look at one house a couple of months ago, and Alex has been looking recently," an insider said. "We're talking about private, double-width mansions in the vicinity of $30 million to $60 million US."

The pop star and baseball player are also interested in scoring a house "with a garage that you can drive into for additional privacy — although those are rare and hard to come by," the source added. Another source said they were also looking in the Hamptons, N.Y.

Madonna's rep didn't return a call or e-mail, but Rodriguez's reps denied the two were looking for real estate.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Lindsay, Sam still together

RUMOURS Lindsay Lohan has taken to her online blog to slam reports she is to split from girlfriend Samantha Ronson, imdb.com reports.

The pair, who have been dating since earlier this year, have been dogged with rumours of a breakup following a spate of arguements.

The couple was recently spotted arguing in New York, and Britain's the Sun newspaper reported last month they had a spat outside a London nightclub, with Lohan left "in tears" after the incident.

But the actress is sick of the rumours, and is adamant she and Ronson are still together.

She wrote a post on her MySpace blog, 'Rumours... Just to clear this up... Because I have been getting a lot of e-mails asking me this one question. Samantha Ronson and Lindsay Lohan (me) are not breaking up."

She ended the post with a smiley face.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Brangelina can't cook

PEOPLE Actor Brad Pitt is ashamed of his poor cookery skills but insists his partner Angelina Jolie is no better, announcing the best meal she has prepared for him is "cereal," imdb.com reports.

The couple has six children together, but Pitt admits that neither of them are able to conjure up a meal for their family because they just can't cook.

"I can rock a Sunday BBQ but that's as far as my culinary talents go," Pitt says.

When asked what Jolie's signature dish would be, Pitt replied, "Cereal."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

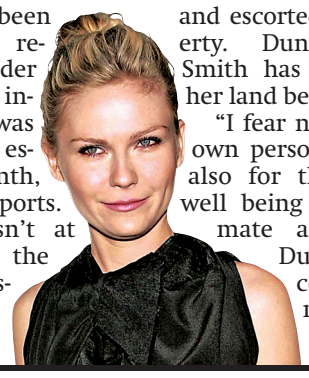
Dunst gets restraining order

PEOPLE Actress Kirsten Dunst has been granted a restraining order against an intruder who was found on her estate last month, imdb.com reports.

Dunst wasn't at home when the alleged trespasser, Christopher Smith, was apprehended and escorted off the property. Dunst maintains Smith has trespassed on her land before.

"I fear not only for my own personal safety, but also for the safety and well being of my housemate and assistant," Dunst states in court documents.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Fame made me stronger: Kate

PEOPLE Kate Bosworth struggled to handle her "brutal" Hollywood success as a youngster but is adamant the experience helped her to become a better person, imdb.com reports.

The actress landed her first big role at the age of 13 when she starred alongside Scarlett Johansson in 1998 film The Horse Whisperer. She says she believes her experience of fame as a child helped to make her "stronger."

"The obsession with the young Hollywood group happened when I was young and in Hollywood. It sort of coincided all at the same time," Bosworth says. "At the time, when you're being dissected and judged it's pretty brutal, but in hindsight it's great and — it sounds clichéd — you do come out the other side better and stronger."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Gossip Girl star expecting No. 2

FAMILY Gossip Girl star Kelly Rutherford is expecting her second child, imdb.com reports. The 40-year-old and her entrepreneur husband, Daniel Giersch, are due to welcome the new baby in June, a rep confirmed.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Today Sunny 5° / -3°
Thursday Partly cloudy 7° / 4°
Friday Partly cloudy 4° / -5°

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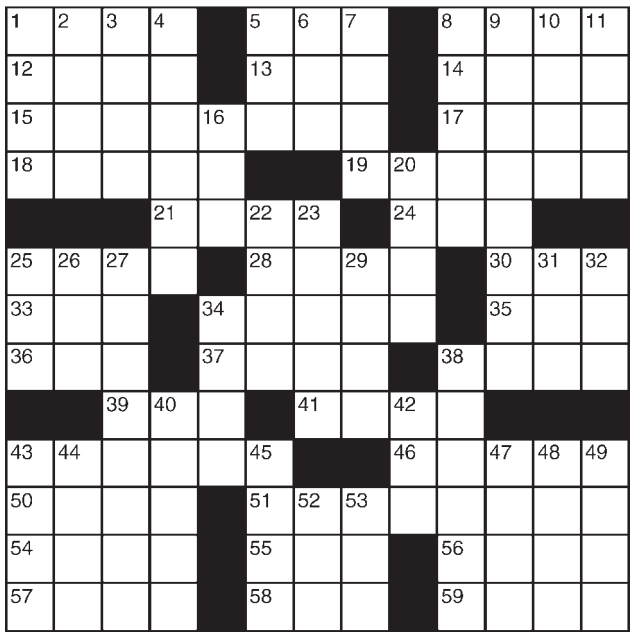
Take Five



Crossword across

1 Funny folks
5 Every iota
8 State
12 Birthright barterer
13 Pod denizen
14 Unembellished
15 Word-for-word
17 Met melody
18 Third rock from the Sun
19 Applied the first coat
21 Stromboli spillage
24 Popular card game
25 With 34-Across, kind of number a ZIP code generally is
28 Morays
30 Guitar's kin
33 Raw rock
34 See 25-Across
35 Afternoon affair
36 Apiece
37 Muhammad and Laila
38 Burn around the edges
39 Resistance measure
41 Gandhi wrapper?
43 Tomorrow, in Tijuana
46 Join together
50 Ear-related
51 Spine component
54 Make fun of
55 Have bills
56 Encounter
57 Hot tubs
58 Take a spouse
59 Big hatchets

Crossword down

1 "— Only Just Begun"
2 Cruising
3 "Young Frankenstein" actress Teri
4 Hardly blunt
5 Suitable
6 Floral garland
7 Aladdin's prop
8 Forcefully
9 Martini ingredient
10 A Great Lake
11 Peruse
16 "Eureka!"
20 Oxidationoutcome
22 Bridal concealer
23 Sponsorship
25 Dandy
26 Rage
27 Brunette in the "Archie" comics
29 Bart's sister
31 Mauna —
32 Hearing organ
34 Rhett's shocking word
38 Hollywood industry
40 Cabbies
42 Trench
43 Some parents
44 On
45 Acknowledge
47 Mountain goat
48 Genealogy chart
49 Diner sign
52 Ram's mate
53 Roulette bet

Sudoku

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

			2				1	6
4	3				6			
1				9			7	4
	6			8		9		
5								1
		7		5			6	
8	1			2				9
			9				2	3
6	2				1			

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

6	3	7	4	8	5	9	1	2
2	9	5	3	1	7	8	6	4
8	1	4	6	2	9	5	7	3
3	6	1	2	9	8	7	4	5
9	7	2	5	4	6	1	3	8
4	5	8	1	7	3	2	9	6
5	2	3	7	6	1	4	8	9
1	4	9	8	3	2	6	5	7
7	8	6	9	5	4	3	2	1

Find today's answers + play more games at metronews.ca

SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:
Under 13 min .....Genius
13-17 min.....Scholar
17-21 min .....Smart
21-25 min .....Not bad
25+ min.....Keep practising

Metro Recipe of the Day

Mustard-Tarragon Chicken Sauté

INGREDIENTS:
2 teaspoons olive oil
4 skinless, boneless chicken breast halves (about 1 1/2 lbs/750 g), pounded to 1/2-inch thickness
2 tablespoons flour
5 scallions, cut into 1-in. (2.5-cm) lengths
3/4 cup chicken broth
1 tablespoon red wine vinegar
4 teaspoons Dijon mustard
1 tablespoon chopped fresh tarragon or 1 tsp (5 mL) dried
1 small tomato, seeded and diced
1/4 cup diced gherkin pickle

METHOD:
1. In large nonstick skillet, heat oil over medium heat. Dredge chicken in flour, shaking off excess. Add chicken to pan and sauté four minutes per side or until golden brown. With slotted spoon, transfer chicken to plate.
2. Add scallions to pan and cook one minute. Add broth and vinegar and bring to a boil. Stir in mustard and tarragon, and return to a boil. Stir in tomato and pickle. Return chicken to pan, reduce to simmer, cover, and cook five minutes or until chicken is cooked through and sauce is richly flavoured. Serve chicken with sauce spooned on top.

SERVES 4

rd.ca
For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to **rd.ca** or check out **Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!**

Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
Don't insist on deadlines being met. A viable concept will be seen to work. You'll be severe if you're asked tough questions.

TAURUS
APRIL 21-MAY 21
A friend refuses to take part in any risk-taking. Someone needs your help. A phone call creates momentary forgetfulness.

GEMINI
MAY 22-JUNE 21
A man's attempt to expose corruption is irritating. Certain plans are best kept secret for a short time. A carefree person brings good news.

CANCER
JUNE 22-JULY 22
Eliminate misery from your vocabulary. Trivial pleasures can cause social snobbery to arise. Don't jump to conclusions.

LEO
JULY 23-AUG 23
You'll find treats in the least likely place. Everything will work out if you're patient. A woman will make a dreadful error.

VIRGO
AUG 24-SEPT 22
Do some walking to find what you really want. Face up to your motivation to change your life. Tie up any loose ends.

LIBRA
SEPT 23-OCT 23
You'll want to retreat from the world. You may have lost the ability to focus on conversations. Your feelings will improve by tomorrow.

SCORPIO
OCT 24-NOV 22
Mixed fortunes will prevail. Your values are called into question. Fear of the unknown causes everything to bog down.

SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23-DEC 21
Invite your friends and family to visit. Give in to the merriness of a great moment. Nothing lasts forever.

CAPRICORN
DEC 22-JAN 20
Someone is trying to pull a fast one. An anxious friend laughs too hard. Domestic difficulties will be remarkably advantageous.

AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 18
Be courageous and give something a try. It's your turn to be a hero. An old flame is living on a lonely street.

PISCES
FEB 19-MARCH 20
Emotions will be on public display. It's not a good day to spend lazing around. Carelessness will have someone all worked up.

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This day in history

DEC. 3, 1970: In Montreal, kidnapped British trade commissioner James Cross is released by the Front de Libération du Québec terrorist group after being held hostage for 60 days. Police negotiate his release and in return the Canadian government grants five terrorists from the FLQ's Chenier Cell safe passage to Cuba.
DEC. 3, 1976: An assassination attempt is made on Bob Marley. He is shot twice but plays a concert two days later.
DEC. 3, 1997: In Ottawa, representatives from 121 countries sign a treaty prohibiting manufacture and deployment of anti-personnel landmines. The United States, People's Republic of China, and Russia do not sign the treaty, however.

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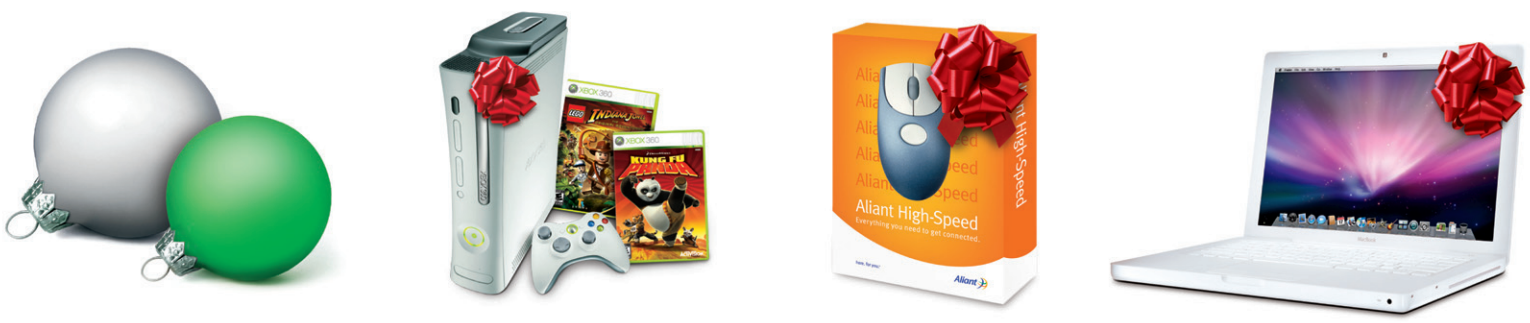

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